$\frac{}{}$ de maximis, inc.

186 Center Street Suite 290 Clinton, NJ 08809 (908) 735-9315 (908) 735-2132 FAX

December 17, 2018

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Ms. Diane Salkie
ATTN: Lower Passaic River Remedial Project Manager
Emergency and Remedial Response Division
U.S. EPA, Region 2
290 Broadway, 19th Floor
New York, New York 10007

Re: Monthly Progress Report No. 139 – November 2018 Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study

(RI/FS)
CERCLA Docket No. 02-2007-2009

Dear Ms. Salkie:

de maximis, inc. is submitting this Monthly Progress Report for the above-captioned project on the behalf of the RI/FS Agreement Settling Parties (Cooperative Parties Group or CPG) pursuant to the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (Settlement Agreement or AOC). The Progress Report satisfies the reporting requirements of Paragraph 42 of said Settlement Agreement. The CPG has revised this Progress Report to address the Region's direction in its September 1, 2015 letter about Section (d).

(a) Actions which have been taken to comply with this Settlement Agreement during the previous month.

Meetings/Conference Calls

- On November 1, EPA Region 2 (Region 2), CPG and New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy (IR) Feasibility Study (FS) development.
- On November 8, Region 2, CPG and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS development.
- On November 13, Region 2, CPG and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS development.
- On November 13, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss the status of the Bioaccumulation (Food Web) Model calibration status.
- On November 15, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR modeling.
- On November 26, Region 2, CPG, and NJDEP held a teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS development.



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- On November 29, Region 2, CPG and NJDEP held a meeting to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS development.
- On November 29, Region 2 and CPG held a teleconference to discuss Region 2's comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) Addendum.

Correspondence

- On November 2, CPG submitted the Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum to Region 2.
- On November 5, CPG uploaded the revised Draft 2012 Fish Tissue Survey and Chemistry Background Data Report for the LPRSA to the EPA's SharePoint site.
- On November 5 and 6, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding updates to the Contaminant Fate and Transport (CFT) Model initial conditions.
- On November 7, CPG submitted a revised schedule for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS and supporting assumptions to Region 2.
- On November 7, Region 2 provided a response and information to CPG regarding proposed bounding maps for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS modeling.
- On November 12, CPG provided the Draft FS Work Plan Upper 9-Mile IR Addendum to Region 2
- On November 13, Region 2 approved the revised schedule for the Upper 9-Mile IR FS.
- On November 13, CPG submitted to the Dissolved Oxygen (DO) data presented in the revised Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring Program Data Report for the LPRSA, Summer and Fall 2012 to Region 2.
- On November 14 15, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding CFT Model revised subsurface initial conditions.
- On November 15, CPG delivered the October Monthly Progress Report to Region 2
- On November 15, CPG provided slides for the November 15 teleconference on Upper 9-Mile IR modeling to Region 2.
- On November 19, Region 2 provided a memorandum to CPG regarding Remedial Action Objectives (RAOs) for the Upper 9-Mile IR.
- On November 19, CPG provided presentation materials from the November 13 teleconference regarding the Bioaccumulation Model calibration to Region 2.
- On November 20, Region 2 provided comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum to CPG.
- On November 20, CPG provided CFT model calibration simulations and code to Region 2.
- On November 21, CPG requested clarification from Region 2 on information in the November 19, 2018 memorandum on RAOs and the November 13, 2018 meeting minutes on the Upper 9-Mile IR FS development.
- On November 26, Region 2 and CPG exchanged emails regarding scheduling a teleconference to discuss Region 2's comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum.

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- On November 27, CPG submitted presentation materials from the November 26 teleconference on the Upper 9-Mile IR FS to Region 2.
- On November 28, CPG and Region 2 consultants exchanged emails regarding the schedule for CPG to provide complete CFT model input/output runs to Region 2 consultants.
- On November 28, CPG provided presentation materials for the November 29 teleconference to discuss the Upper 9-Mile IR FS development to Region 2.

Work

- CPG participated in weekly IR FS Meetings with Region 2 and NJDEP.
- CPG continued work to address Region 2's comments on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices.
- CPG will continue to support the review of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model calibration.
- CPG continued work on revision and calibration of the LPR Bioaccumulation Model.
- CPG continued work on revision of Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG reviewed Region 2's comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum.

(b) Results of Sampling and Tests

None.

(c) Work planned for the next two months with schedules relating to the overall project schedule for RI/FS completion

- CPG will continue work on the revised Draft 17-Mile RI Report and Model Appendices in response to Region 2 comments. Appendix P (Bioaccumulation Modeling) has been partially revised, but additional work on calibration issues is required to complete the revision.
- CPG will continue to support HDR's review of the calibration of the LPR/Newark Bay CFT Model.
- CPG will continue revising and calibrating the LPR Bioaccumulation Model pursuant to Region 2 comments.
- CPG will continue work on Newark Bay Model documentation.
- CPG will continue participation in meetings and conference calls with Region 2 to prepare the Upper 9-Mile Interim Remedy FS Addendum.
- CPG will respond to Region 2 comments on the Draft Upper 9-Mile Bathymetry QAPP Addendum and schedule the survey based on favorable tide conditions.

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- (d) <u>Problems encountered and anticipated problems, actual or anticipated delays, and solutions developed and implemented to address actual or anticipated problems or delays.</u>
 - Other Documents Region 2 and CPG are working on finalizing the outstanding documents.

If you have any questions, please contact Rob Law or me at (908) 735-9315.

Very truly yours,

de maximis, inc.

Willard Potter

CPG Project Coordinator

cc: Frances Zizila, EPA Region 2 Office of Regional Counsel

William Hyatt, CPG Coordinating Counsel

Lisa Baron, USACE Clay Stern, USFWS Reyhan Mehran, NOAA

Jay Nickerson, NJDEP Beth Franklin, USACE

Laura Kelmar, AECOM David Marabello, CDM-Smith

Scott Kirchner, CDM-Smith